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OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES

Letter dated 30 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the Group of Member States of the South Pacific Forum who are Member States of the United Nations, and have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the Twenty-Fourth South Pacific Forum Communiqué, completed in Nauru on 10 and 11 August 1993 (see annex).

It is my duty to request your assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under items 15 (a), 18, 36, 44, 50, 56, 61, 71, 72, 83, 92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 100, 109, 110, 111, 112, 118, 119 and 120 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Carl L. HEINE
Ambassador

ANNEX

TWENTY-FOURTH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

Nauru

10 - 11 August 1993

FORUM COMMUNIQUE

The Twenty-Fourth South Pacific Forum was held in Nauru on 10-11 August 1993, and was attended by Heads of Government of Australia, the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

2. The Forum congratulated the people and Government of the Republic of Nauru on their Twenty-Fifth Independence Anniversary and acknowledged the generous hospitality provided to all delegations to the Forum. The Forum observed a minutes silence for the former Premier of Niue, Sir Robert Rex, the former President of Nauru, H.E. Hammer De Robert, OBE, and the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Sir Robert Muldoon, all of whom passed away during the last year, in acknowledgement of their substantial contribution to the region.

3. The Forum considered the following key issues:

- economic and trade concerns;
- population and sustainable development;
- environmental issues including follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED);
- fisheries issues;
- the region's continuing concerns on nuclear testing and plutonium shipments;
- the special needs of the Smaller Island States;
- the potential danger from hazardous wastes.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

4. Recalling the major contribution of its members to the UNCED process, the Forum reaffirmed its strong commitment to sustainable development. As had been emphasised at previous Forums, sound environmental practices constituted an integral

part of the development process and all activities pursued in the region must be both economically and ecologically sound. The vulnerability of the region to natural disasters, environmental degradation and high population growth underlined the need for careful and sustainable management in order to meet the needs of future generations. A number of specific issues related to sustainable development were considered.

Economic Development Issues

- Regional Trade

5. The Forum recognised the importance of trade in the promotion of sustained economic growth in each Forum member country.

6. The Forum noted the continuing concern of a number of Forum Island Countries (FICs) on the need for further improvements in the provisions of SPARTECA to enhance their export market opportunities in Australia and New Zealand. In this regard, the Forum welcomed the undertaking by Australia and New Zealand to continue consultations with the countries concerned for an early solution.

7. The Forum also recognised the importance of promoting increased intra-regional trade amongst the FICs and welcomed the offer by Fiji to consider non reciprocal trading arrangements with its island neighbours.

- Uruguay Round

8. The Forum emphasised the critical importance of achieving a successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round negotiations this year in order to give a much-needed boost to the world economy and to ensure that the opportunity for its conclusion is not lost. It welcomed the impetus to the negotiations afforded by the recent G7 meeting but stressed the need for all participants to redouble their efforts. The Forum noted that the outcome should include a substantial, genuinely equitable and trade liberalising outcome on agriculture which encompassed the expansion of existing market access opportunities and was a balanced package that took account of the specific interests and needs of developing countries.

- Linkages with the Broader Asia-Pacific Region

9. The Forum agreed that encouraging progress was being made in establishing more effective regional links with ASEAN and other countries of the Asia-Pacific

rim, the need for which the Forum had stressed last year. It noted that, with continuing recession in much of the industrialised world, economic opportunities provided by the dynamic economies of East Asia had become even more important. It commended the very rapid progress made by APEC, and its increasing role in promoting economic growth and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The Forum emphasised the importance of FICs taking maximum advantage of opportunities to participate in the APEC process through the Forum's observer status. It also expressed its support for Papua New Guinea's application to become a full APEC member.

- Regional Strategy and Priorities

10. The Forum again stressed the importance of putting in place effective domestic policies to strengthen economic performance and private sector development. It reaffirmed the primacy of national governments in the development process and the consequent need to strengthen aid consultative mechanisms at the national level. In this context, Forum leaders endorsed the recommendation of the 1993 Pacific Island Countries/Development Partners meeting that the Secretary General consult with Forum members and other agencies with a view to developing a programme of regional, national, and sectoral level aid consultative meetings.

11. The Forum welcomed progress in the formulation of a regional development strategy designed to ensure that available resources including aid were utilised in the most efficient manner consistent with development priorities of the countries of the region.

12. The Forum reaffirmed the critical importance of human resource development to the countries of the region. It welcomed the UNDP initiative to produce a Human Development report for the South Pacific and supported the need for an intergovernmental meeting to consider the report. The provision and strengthening of educational opportunities, particularly vocational training, was seen as crucial to economic and social advancement.

Population and Sustainable Development

13. The Forum stressed the fundamental link between population growth, the environment and sustainable development. The Forum agreed that added focus should be given to improving the availability and quality of family planning services to all, while ensuring that those services took close account of cultural traditions and values. It noted that population programmes should be addressed in the context of wider

development issues, such as economic growth rates, good health and improvement in the social and economic status of women.

14. The Forum noted with concern that total population projections for the region were well above the world average, and that in many countries population increases were impacting adversely on social and economic development. The Forum endorsed the communique and resolutions issued following the Fourth Conference of Pacific Island Leaders, on sustainable development and population, held in Tahiti in June 1993. The Forum welcomed the initiative of Vanuatu to host a regional Ministerial Meeting to prepare for the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development. The Forum called for a South Pacific Declaration on Population at the Vanuatu meeting and encouraged regional participation at the highest possible level in the Cairo Conference. It saw this as an important means of ensuring that South Pacific countries' policies and strategies were reflected in a new world plan on population.

Fisheries Issues

15. The Forum noted with satisfaction the progress made at the first substantive session of the UN Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks held in New York in July 1993. The Forum recognised the importance of the Conference in helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fisheries resources of the South Pacific region. Noting that the Conference had agreed to hold two further sessions in 1994, it stressed the need for Forum members to continue to play an active role in the negotiations. The desirability of including technical experts on the delegations of Forum members was underlined. The Forum expressed its appreciation for the work of the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in coordinating a regional position for the Conference. It also expressed appreciation for assistance rendered by New Zealand through the FFA enabling FICs to attend the July session of the Conference, and by Canada and Norway for similar assistance extended through the United Nations Voluntary Fund established for that purpose.

16. The Forum reaffirmed its strong opposition to driftnet fishing. It noted that thirteen FFA member countries had signed the Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Drift Nets in the South Pacific (the Wellington Convention) and seven had ratified it. It agreed that it was a matter of priority that the remaining eligible countries sign and ratify the Convention and its Protocols.

17. The Forum noted the vital importance of effective regional arrangements for dealing with distant water fishing nations for the benefit of the region as a whole.

The Forum expressed satisfaction with the formal extension of the Multilateral Treaty on Fisheries with the United States of America, which remained a model for fisheries cooperation in the region. It urged other distant water fishing nations to enter into negotiations with FFA member countries on similar multilateral arrangements and would welcome expressions of interest in that regard.

18. The Forum reaffirmed its determination to enforce regionally agreed fisheries regulations, and noted the importance in this regard of thorough and effective maritime surveillance. It welcomed the readiness of France to work towards an arrangement for the coordination of fisheries surveillance with Australia, New Zealand and other countries of the region, and expressed the hope that practical arrangements for such cooperation would be completed in the near future. The Forum also welcomed the entry into force of the Niue Treaty on Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement and urged its ratification by all FFA members.

Declaration on Development of Natural Resources

19. The Forum noted the similarities in the South Pacific Forum members in terms of:

(i) natural resources endowments, including fisheries, forestry and in-ground resources such as gold and phosphate (certain fisheries are, of course shared); and

(ii) problems in dealing with the development of natural resource projects, including dealing with much the same foreign investors, technical experts, trading partners, sources of aid, and even crooks and carpetbaggers.

20. The Forum also noted the need to provide a basis and a stimulus for increasing cooperation, including the exchange of information, for mutual benefit by members of the South Pacific Forum in the development of their natural resources, even in respect of projects which might be purely national in scope.

21. The Forum agreed that a common stand on the issue would serve as a point of reference for such cooperation. This would also complement existing forms of cooperation in the areas of fisheries including sub-marine resources and environmentally sustainable development.

22. The Forum noted a proposed Declaration of Cooperation in the Development of Natural Resources in the Forum countries and agreed to consider it in full at the next Forum.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

UNCED Follow-up

23. The Forum reaffirmed the importance of environmental issues to the region and the need for concerted action to ensure that decisions taken at UNCED were followed up effectively. A number of specific issues were reviewed.

- Biodiversity

24. The Forum observed that the South Pacific is one of the world's most biologically diverse regions, in terms of terrestrial ecosystems, rivers, lagoons, coral reefs and deep sea environment. It welcomed early progress made by member countries to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity and called for others to do so in order to bring the agreement into force as early as possible. The Forum called on member countries to commence early implementation of measures in the Convention designed to conserve biological diversity.

- Ozone Depletion

25. The Forum welcomed progress made by regional governments to support the Vienna Convention on the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol, and noted the linkage of these conventions with the objectives of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. It recalled the strong environmental incentives associated with these agreements, and the economic incentives associated with the Montreal Protocol, and called upon those member countries that have not yet ratified to do so.

- Institutional Arrangements

26. The Forum welcomed the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the election of Vanuatu as the FIC member of the Asian Group of the CSD, the Forum Secretariat's acceptance as a special representative to the Commission and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) observer status on the Commission. It agreed that Forum members should continue to take a close interest in UNCED follow-up and the work of the Commission. It expressed its appreciation for the SPREP's contribution to post-UNCED work,

especially preparations for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

- Global Conference for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (GCSDSIDS)

27. The Forum expressed its strong support for the GCSDSIDS, to be held in Barbados in 1994, and urged member governments to ensure they were represented at the highest possible level. It further noted that this UNCED initiative reflected concerns about the difficulties facing FICs, especially the Smaller Island States. It called upon the international community, especially Post-Forum Dialogue Partners, to cooperate closely and fully with small island developing states to ensure that the Conference produced constructive and practical outcomes.

28. The Forum called on SPREP to consult with Forum members to determine preferred Conference outcomes based on recommendations from the regional technical meetings and work for their incorporation into the report of the Preparatory Committee.

- Climate Change and Sea Level Rise

29. The Forum reaffirmed that global warming and sea level rise are among the most serious threats to the Pacific region and the survival of some island states. The Forum therefore reiterated its strong support for the Framework Convention on Climate Change and urged all states to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

30. Recognising that achievement of the objectives of the Convention will require stronger measures than currently contained within it, the Forum advocated the negotiation of binding protocols establishing emission reduction targets and timetables, the adoption of concrete measures to develop and utilise renewable and efficient energy technologies, economic instruments and afforestation/reforestation as effective means of addressing the problems of climate change. The Forum noted the need to address dependence on fossil fuels. It further recognised the desirability that appropriate existing international agencies, including those under the UN system, particularly the CSD, more fully address the need to encourage the use and transfer of renewable and more efficient energy technologies for the reduction of green house gas emissions.

31. The Forum reiterated the need for research on the impact of global warming and sea level rise on island countries, such as the Sea Level and Climate Monitoring Project funded by Australia.

- Oceans

32. The Forum agreed that consideration of how to protect oceans from land-based sources of pollution should be a high priority for the international community. It also urged all member countries, as a matter of priority, to take steps to promote ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention.

- Forests

33. The Forum noted that forests throughout the region and the world were disappearing at an alarming rate due to human exploitation at an alarming pace. It recognised the need for governments to develop policies to ensure that the rate of deforestation was sustainable in the long term. The Forum urged the international negotiation of commitments with respect to preservation and sustainable use of the world's forests, leading to a convention on the protection of forests, with appropriate relations to both the Climate and Bio-diversity Conventions.

Whaling

34. While the Forum continued to attach importance to the sustainable harvest of marine resources, it recognised that a greater level of protection for whales and endangered or threatened small cetaceans was appropriate. In this context, the Forum expressed its full support for the International Whaling Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling and welcomed further consideration being given to the proposal to establish a Southern Oceans Sanctuary.

Nuclear Testing

35. The decisions of the United States, Russia and France to extend their testing moratoriums were warmly welcomed by Forum countries. The Forum Chairman, on behalf of Forum countries, had written to the Heads of Government of the five Nuclear Weapons States after the 1992 Forum meeting calling on them to cease testing permanently. Forum countries urged those countries now observing a testing moratorium to maintain it indefinitely and called on China and the United Kingdom to declare moratoriums on testing.

36. The Forum recalled its long standing opposition to French nuclear testing in the Pacific region, and expressed particular pleasure at France's extension of its moratorium. The Forum supported continued monitoring in the vicinity of the test sites to assess the nuclear contamination, if any, to the marine environment caused by past testing. The Forum noted that, if France were to cease testing permanently, this would contribute significantly to improving further the relations between France and Forum countries. Any resumption of testing would be a major set back to the current positive trend in relations between France and the region.

37. The Forum welcomed United States and French commitment to the early negotiation of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTB), and urged all the nuclear weapons states to participate actively in negotiations on a multilateral, universal and verifiable CTB through appropriate multilateral mechanisms.

Nuclear Liability

38. The Forum strongly underlined the importance of an enhanced international regime to cover possible transboundary damage arising from peaceful nuclear activity, and noted the absence of effective international rules for nuclear liability. It recalled the on-going deliberations by the Standing Committee on Nuclear Liability within the International Atomic Energy Agency, and encouraged Forum members to participate actively in the negotiations. The Forum expressed its strong support for the establishment of a comprehensive international legal regime on liability for nuclear damage which fully reflected the "polluter pays" principle, with absolute and unlimited state liability. It recommended maximum possible attendance by members in the upcoming conference for amending the Vienna Convention.

South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone

39. The Forum noted and welcomed the continued positive disarmament initiatives taken by the nuclear weapon states recently, including the United States' and Russia's signatures of the START II Agreement. In light of these developments, the Forum reiterated its call, made in recent joint démarches to the United States, the United Kingdom and France, for those nuclear weapon states which had not acceded to the Protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga to do so as soon as possible.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

40. The Forum welcomed the continuing growth in the number of parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The Forum noted that in 1995 a conference

would be convened to consider whether the NPT should continue in force indefinitely, or be extended for an additional fixed period or periods. The Forum expressed its member's desire to see the NPT extended indefinitely. The Forum also noted its expectation that the Preparatory Committee for the 1995 NPT Conference could once again task the Secretariat to prepare a background paper for the Conference on the operation of the Treaty of Rarotonga.

Ocean Dumping of Radioactive and Other Wastes

41. The Forum welcomed successful completion of studies carried out under the authority of the London Convention of 1972 (LC'72) on radioactie waste dumping at sea. The Forum urged those members party to the LC'72 to continue to support actively a total ban on dumping of radioactive wastes at sea when it adopts amendments this November. It also called upon its Post-Forum Dialogue Partners to support such a ban, and called upon Forum members to attend the November LC'72 meeting. The Forum expressed its grave concern over the dumping of Russian nuclear wastes into the North Pacific, called for its immediate cessation, and called for retrieval of those wastes if feasible and safe.

42. The Forum also welcomed progress of the Amendment Group of LC'72 and reiterated its support for the amendment process generally. In particular, the Forum supported the Annex Amendment procedure ("fast-track") at the next Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties as an interim step toward a comprehensive updating of the London Convention.

Plutonium Shipments

43. The Forum noted that Japan's first shipment of plutonium from Europe had transitted the Pacific region. It also noted that Japan had responded to the Forum concerns by providing briefings and some information relating to safety and security arrangements it made for the shipment. It nevertheless recalled that the Forum had expressed its concern about the shipment in its 1992 Communiqué and it reiterated the risks inherent in such shipments.

44. It again stressed that they must be made in accordance with the highest international safety and security standards, and in a manner satisfactorily addressing all possible contingencies. The Forum considered the drawing up of a draft code of practice for the transport of radioactive materials by sea which was negotiated by the IAEA/IMO Joint Working Group and which the IMO will consider adopting this year, represents a positive development. The Forum expressed the desire that its members

continue to monitor, and where possible actively participate in, further discussions on ways in which the code might be strengthened where appropriate. The Forum reaffirmed the importance of Japan consulting fully with Forum countries regarding such shipments, and providing information on its plutonium use programme.

Chemical Weapons Issues

45. The Forum reaffirmed its abhorrence of chemical weapons and welcomed the opening for signature of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in January this year, noting that most members of the Forum had already signed the Convention. The Forum expressed its full support for the global ban on the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons which will come into place when the CWC enters into force.

46. The Forum urged all countries to take early action to ratify the CWC, with the aim of ensuring the entry into force of the Convention at the earliest possible date. It also urged those members of the international community which had yet to sign the CWC to do so as soon as possible.

47. The Forum drew attention to the region's continuing concerns about the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Destruction System, reiterating that the facility should be permanently closed when the current programme of chemical weapons and agent destruction was completed. The Forum welcomed the United States' invitation to send another scientific mission to Johnston Atoll, which was accepted in principle, with the date of the visit to be determined later.

Movement and Management of Toxic and Hazardous Wastes

48. The Forum acknowledged the vulnerability of the region to environmental degradation, and expressed particular concern about the possible disastrous impact on the people and natural resources of the region of the importation into, and the uncontrolled and unregulated movement of wastes generated within the region.

49. In this context, the Forum noted that numerous approaches had been made to certain South Pacific Island countries by unscrupulous foreign waste dealers for the importation into, and the treatment within the region of, hazardous and other wastes produced in other countries. Mindful of their obligations resulting from the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, as well as from the various treaties signed by Forum countries (including the Convention on Climate Change and the Biodiversity Convention), Forum members acknowledged that there was an urgent need to prohibit

the importation into and regulate, control and manage, in an environmentally sound manner, those wastes generated within the region.

50. The Forum noted the report of the Technical Working Group and its assessment and evaluation of the Papua New Guinea proposal for a regional convention on the subject. The Forum endorsed the proposal and agreed that technical consultations and negotiations on a regional convention, complementary to the relevant global regimes commence by March 1994, with the aim of concluding them by the 1995 Forum.

51. The Forum also urged member governments which had not already done so to consider seriously acceding to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements to Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, as soon as possible, and recommended that assistance be sought from relevant international organisations in the negotiation of the regional convention or protocol.

Coastal Protection

52. The Forum reiterated its concern to ensure the early provision of effective coastal protection systems in the region. It requested SPREP in consultation with SOPAC to convene at an early date such workshops as may be required of regional officials and distinguished experts in the field to assess the needs of the region; examine various systems of coastal protection, both existing and in the process of development; and prepare a detailed report, with recommendations for consideration at the 1994 meeting of the Forum.

SMALLER ISLAND STATES

53. The Forum confirmed its continued support for recognition of the development needs of the Smaller Island States of the Forum and their efforts to achieve greater self reliance. It noted that the Smaller Island States sought to achieve continued improvement in the living standards of their people through national effort and through participation in regional initiatives.

54. The Forum recognised the role the Secretariat, in its programmes, should play in furthering the development aims of the Smaller Island States and again urged other regional organisations also to pay particular attention to the special requirements of these Forum members.

55. The Forum noted the collective initiatives being pursued by the Smaller Island States and the opportunities being considered for bringing about sustainable economic development. Opportunities for joint activities to bring about private sector expansion were given priority.

POLITICAL AND SECURITY ISSUES

New Caledonia

56. The Forum endorsed a report from the Forum's Ministerial Committee on New Caledonia, which visited the Territory in July. It expressed its appreciation to the Ministers concerned, and to the French and Territorial authorities for their cooperation in facilitating the visit.

57. The Forum reaffirmed its support for the aspirations and goals of the people of New Caledonia, including the Kanak Community. It reiterated its full support for the processes being conducted under the Matignon Accords and, while sensitive to the varying and conflicting interpretations and expectations of the Accords, encouraged all parties to maintain their commitment to the Matignon process, and the promotion of economic, political and social development in New Caledonia.

58. The Forum was again encouraged by the continuing progress being made in implementation of the Accords, and noted the positive measures being pursued by the French authorities in cooperation with all sectors of the population to establish a framework for New Caledonia's peaceful evolution to self determination. It was particularly encouraged by the positive spirit in which the midterm review of the Accords had been conducted, and the greater degree of dialogue that was developing in the territory about preparations for the 1998 act of self determination. The Forum noted, however, that wide gaps between the communities in New Caledonia persisted. It urged further provision of assistance for education and training opportunities for the Kanak population.

59. The Forum agreed that transparency in preparation of the electoral rolls and continued dialogue among all parties in New Caledonia were important in ensuring an act of self-determination consistent with the principles and practices of the United Nations, in which all options, including independence, were open, and which would safeguard the rights of the indigenous Kanaks and of all other New Caledonians. The Forum reiterated its hope that the France would facilitate regular visits to New Caledonia by visiting missions from the United Nations.

60. The Forum encouraged the increasing contacts between New Caledonia and the countries of the Forum, including through greater participation of representatives of the territory in technical committees, workshops and seminars organised by the Secretariat. As New Caledonia was an integral part of the South Pacific region, the strengthening of cooperation between Forum members and New Caledonia was a positive contribution towards the process of political and economic rebalancing in the territory. It appreciated the constructive attitude taken by all involved, including the Government of France, in facilitating further development of these links. The Forum endorsed the recently concluded draft text of the UN General Assembly Resolution on New Caledonia.

US/Pacific Island Country Relations

61. The Forum welcomed the formal conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the United States/Pacific Island Nations Joint Commercial Commission and accepted the United States' proposal to hold the first meeting of the JCC in Washington on 8 October 1993 and agreed to a preparatory meeting of appropriate Ministers and Officials prior to the meeting in Washington. It also recalled its decision in 1992 to endorse the principle of a framework agreement on cooperation between the Governments of South Pacific States and the United States of America. It approved a text as a basis for initiating discussions with the United States.

Law Enforcement Cooperation

62. The Forum reviewed progress in implementation of the Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation. It agreed that emphasis should continue to be placed on establishing appropriate legal frameworks, and that a detailed report be submitted to the 1994 Forum, on a comprehensive regional convention on extradition and related areas of legal cooperation. The Forum also noted the importance of continuing to foster institutional linkages within the region. It endorsed the continuation of work in Customs cooperation, and its broadening into coordination in other operational areas of law enforcement. The Forum also noted that resources in this area were a problem, and that this would have to be kept under constant review.

UN Agenda for Peace

63. The Forum considered issues relating to the role of regional organisations in maintaining international peace and security in their own regions, and which were raised by the UN Security Council in its January statement on the 'Agenda for Peace'.

As an initial step, it requested the Forum Secretary General to investigate and report on ways of broadening the Forum's exchange of information and consultation with the UN Secretariat in New York, including the possibility of the Secretary General making an annual visit to New York to brief the UN Secretary General on the Forum's discussions, and the option of seeking observer status with the UN.

64. The Forum shared fully the concerns of the UN Secretary General and the Security Council over the safety of UN forces and personnel deployed in conditions of strife. It strongly supported the inscription of a new item on the safety of UN personnel on the agenda of this year's UN General Assembly.

65. The meeting expressed its warm thanks to New Zealand for keeping Forum Island Ministers informed of developments in the UN Security Council.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

66. Noting the success of regional activities during the first half of the United Nations International Year for Indigenous Peoples of the World, the Forum urged continuation of development of worthwhile activities during the second half of the year. The Forum welcomed the Declaration of the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in June 1993 which recommended the proclamation of an International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples to commence in January 1994, including the proposal that, in the framework of such a Decade, consideration should be given to the establishment of a permanent Forum for indigenous peoples in the UN system. The Forum noted the importance of maintaining the international momentum on indigenous peoples' concerns. In this regard, continued progress on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the UN system whilst ensuring the continuation of an indigenous input was particularly significant.

FAO CANDIDACY

67. The Forum affirmed its support for the candidature of Dr Geoff Miller, of Australia, for the position of Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to be decided at the FAO Biennial Conference in November 1993.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee

68. The Forum was pleased with the range of activities and the degree of coordination being achieved through the mechanism of the South Pacific Organisations Coordinating Committee. The Forum welcomed the review of the institutional arrangements for the management of living marine resources, being pursued through the Committee, and urged it to complete the review as quickly as possible.

Participation of Territories

69. Forum Leaders agreed that negotiations on a revised Canberra Agreement and a South Pacific Plant Protection Agreement (SPPPA) should be aimed at ensuring the full participation of all Pacific Island Territories in all meetings of the SPC and in any body that might be established under the SPPPA. They also agreed that deliberations in bodies established by both Agreements should be based on a consensus approach in keeping with the Pacific Way and that all Territories are allowed to play a full role in efforts to arrive at that consensus.

FORUM COUNTRY INITIATIVES

Proposed United Nations Initiative on Opportunity and Participation

70. The Forum considered the proposal for a comprehensive and systematic study to be undertaken by the United Nations of the "Opportunity and Participation", with particular reference to the economies of developing countries. It noted that the proposed study intended to focus on options which might be employed to create and maintain opportunities for economic participation within developing countries. In supporting the proposal the Forum encouraged members of the United Nations also to support the proposal at the Forty-Eighth United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The Pacific Prize

71. The Forum agreed to the establishment of an award to be known as the Pacific Prize which would be announced at each Forum. The Pacific Prize will be awarded in recognition of long outstanding service to the region.

Forum Review

72. The Forum agreed to the establishment of a small and representative Group of Ministers working with the Secretary General to undertake a comprehensive review of the Forum including its structure, procedures, institutional arrangements and linkages to other institutions including ASEAN and APEC. The Group of Ministers comprising Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa would report to the Twenty Fifth Forum. The Forum accepted with pleasure Australia's offer to convene the first meeting which would be open to all members.

REPORTS OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

73. The Forum received with appreciation and adopted, where appropriate, the annual reports of the :

(1) Director of the Forum Fisheries Agency;
(2) Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program;
(3) Director of the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission;
(4) Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific;
(5) Secretary General of the Forum Secretariat;
(6) Director of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme;
(7) Director of the Tourism Council of the South Pacific.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

74. The Forum reaffirmed its appreciation and acceptance of the kind offer of Australia to host the 25th South Pacific Forum. The date for the Forum will be finalised by Australia in consultation with the Secretariat.